

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently Amended) A dampening device for ball game rackets comprising a base body made of foam material and a connector formed such that the dampening device can be fixed to at least ~~one~~ two longitudinal ~~string~~ strings of a ball game racket ~~without substantially coupling the strings with each other, the dampening device being~~ configured to embrace opposing sides of each of the at least two longitudinal strings without fully enclosing each of the at least two longitudinal strings.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The dampening device according to claim 1, which is configured such that the dampening device can be fixed to four longitudinal strings of the racket ~~without substantially coupling the strings with each other.~~

4. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the base body is elongate or tape-shaped.

5. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the connector is provided on a side of the base body.

6. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, which is reusable in that the connector can be reopened.

7. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the connector is formed as an adhesive layer provided on the base body.

8. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the connector is formed as a mechanical closure.

9. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the base body consists of one part.

10. (Currently Amended) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the base body comprises two parts, and wherein the two parts can be fixed opposite each other in such a way that the at least ~~one~~ two longitudinal string ~~is~~ strings are enclosed between the two parts.

11. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 8, wherein a first base body part comprises a first part of the mechanical closure and a second base body part comprises a second part of the mechanical closure which are engageable with each other.

12. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the base body parts comprises an adhesive layer for a connection with the other base body part.

13. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 8, wherein the mechanical closure extends essentially along the entire length of the base body and comprises essentially identical hook elements that are engageable with each other.

14. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the foam material of the base body is made of open-cell or closed-cell foam.

15. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the foam material of the base body has a bulk density between 10 and 1000 kg/m³.

16. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the foam material of the base body has a thermal conductivity between 0.03 and 0.05 W/mK.

17. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the foam material of the base body comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polyurethane, urea formaldehyde, phenol formaldehyde, epoxy resin and silicone.

18. (Currently Amended) A ball game racket comprising at least one dampening device according to claim 1, wherein the ball game racket has strings comprising the at least two longitudinal strings and transverse strings and wherein the dampening device is fixed to the at least two of the longitudinal strings and embraces them relatively loosely ~~without substantially coupling the strings with each other.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim 18, wherein the dampening device is fixed to the longitudinal strings in an area outside the ~~transverse~~ transverse strings.

20. (Previously Presented) The ball game racket according to claim 18, wherein the dampening device is fixed to the longitudinal strings in an area between the heart portion of the racket and the transverse string closest to the heart portion.

21. (Previously Presented) The ball game racket according to claim 18, wherein the dampening device is provided in the area of the transverse strings that are longest.

22. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim 18, wherein the dampening device is fixed to at least two neighboring longitudinal strings ~~without substantially coupling the two neighboring longitudinal strings with each other.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The ball game racket according to claim 18, wherein the dampening device is fixed to four neighboring longitudinal strings ~~without substantially coupling the four neighboring longitudinal strings with each other.~~

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 7, wherein the adhesive layer is releasable, repositionable, or releasable and repositionable.

26. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 8, wherein mechanical closure is a hook and loop closure.

27. (Previously Presented) The dampening device according to claim 15, wherein the foam material of the base body has a bulk density between 100 and 500 kg/m³.

28. (New) A dampening device for ball game rackets comprising a base body made of foam material and a connector formed such that the dampening device is configured to be fixed to at least two longitudinal strings of a ball game racket without fully encompassing the at least two longitudinal strings, the dampening device being configured to exert a compressive force on the at least two longitudinal strings.

29. (New) A dampening device for ball game rackets comprising a base body made of foam material and a connector formed such that the dampening device is

configured to be fixed to at least two adjacent longitudinal strings of a ball game racket, the dampening device being configured to embrace less than a full circumference of each of the at least two adjacent longitudinal strings, with an interior surface of the dampening device facing the at least two adjacent longitudinal strings, and an exterior surface of the dampening device facing away from the at least two adjacent longitudinal strings.